

WE CLAIM:

1 1. A method of coagulating menstrual flow in humans and other
2 animals comprising contacting menstrual flow with at least one
3 lectin capable of agglutinating at least one of the constituents
4 of said menstrual flow.

1 2. The method of Claim 1 wherein said lectin is capable of
2 agglutinating erythrocytes, leukocytes, and/or tissue fragments
3 comprising said menstrual flow.

1 3. The method of Claim 1 wherein said lectin is selected from
2 the group consisting of WGA, SBA, ConA, and LCA.

1 4. The method of Claim 1 wherein said lectin is administered
2 intravaginally.

1 5. The method of Claim 4 wherein said lectin is in neat form.

1 6. The method of Claim 4 wherein said lectin is contained in a
2 vehicle comprising excipients or adjuvants.

1 7. The method of Claim 4 wherein said lectins are contained in
2 an absorbent device.

1 8. The method of Claim 4 wherein said lectins are contained in
2 a non-absorbent device.

1 9. The method of Claim 1 wherein said lectins are applied
2 extravaginally.

1 10. The method of Claim 9 wherein said lectins are in neat form.

1 11. The method of Claim 9 wherein said lectins are contained in
2 a vehicle comprising excipients or adjuvants.

1 12. The method of Claim 9 wherein said lectins are contained in
2 an absorbent device.

1 13. The method of Claim 9 wherein said lectins are contained in
2 a non-absorbent device.

1 14. A method of preventing toxic shock syndrome in humans caused
2 by pathogenic microorganisms which comprises administering to a
3 human in danger of infection with a pathogenic microorganism
4 causing toxic shock syndrome at least one lectin capable of
5 diminishing the infective capability of said microorganism in an
6 amount effective to diminish the infective capability of said
7 microorganism.

1 15. The method of Claim 14 wherein said microorganism is a
2 strain of *Staphylococcus aureus*.

1 16. The method of Claim 14 wherein said lectins are selected
2 from the group consisting of WGA, SBA, ConA, and LIP.

1 17. The method of Claim 14 wherein said lectin is administered
2 intravaginally.

1 18. The method of Claim 14 wherein said lectin is in neat form.

1 19. The method of Claim 14 wherein said lectin is contained in a
2 vehicle comprising excipients or adjuvants.

1 20. The method of Claim 14 wherein said lectin is incorporated
2 in an absorbent device.

1 21. The method of Claim 20 wherein said absorbent device is a
2 tampon.

1 22. The method of Claim 20 wherein said absorbent device is
2 applied extravaginally.